

Connecticut Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (CYSPI)
Advisory Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2008
United Way, Wethersfield, CT
9:00 – 10:30 AM

In Attendance: Allison Case, DMHAS; Andrea Duarte, DMHAS; Marianne McDougall, DMHAS Intern; Jessica Resnickoff, Enfield Youth Services; Barbara Sheldon, Parent; Judith Stonger, CT Clearinghouse; and Bill Turek, Consultant (Retired SDE).

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Contract Update

- Screening for Mental Health contract still incomplete; must provide additional documentation and have experienced some difficulty assembling.
- Agreement with DCF moving along; will support EMPS collaboration, AMSR training (2009 Training of Trainers) and Community Awareness Campaign (mini-grant program).

High School Component

- Cohort I SOS post-tests in progress.
- Program and evaluation consent processes have varied by school with wide-ranging degrees of success. Andrea and Amy planning to meet with Assistant Superintendent to discuss project and school performance as well as most-appropriate contact person at SDE.
- Expect to assemble SOS Coordinators from all schools this spring to share lessons learned and plan for next year. Bill recommended contacting Pat Ciccone, SDE's Professional Development Consultant, to arrange date and for CEUs for school counselors attending project trainings. Judy to follow-up.

Saint Francis Hospital-Quirk Middle School Pilot

- Web-based data system implemented January 18, 2008. Allows on-line screenings, immediate results and tracking of follow-ups. Staff currently working to enter paper data from September 2007 forward.
- Mental health screenings continue to be linked with well-child checks although there have been some adjustments to the referral process.
- St. Francis looking to hire a part-time clinician to assist at Quirk with assessment and treatment functions and to track middle school participants into high school.

College Component

- Andrea and Amy met with CSU schools February 8. Very positive meeting. Data collection and reporting procedures adjusted and re-defined somewhat. All campuses are on board.
- WestConn has required some additional support and assistance. (At present VP and Program Liaison are more supportive of program than Counseling Center Director.)

GLS Memorial Act Reauthorization

- Grant requires a minimum of 5% (of 85% direct service dollars) be allocated to Higher Education initiatives; however Andrea believes this is too small of an amount and has discussed with Dianne Harnad, Director of Prevention Services.

Training

- Dr. Barry Feldman led AMSR training January 18 targeting cohort 1B technical high school counselors and EMPS providers. Some colleges, Quirk Middle School and Kaynor (cohort 2) also attended. Feedback very positive. Board members, mini-grantees and other school and community providers working with 10-24 y.o. will be invited to remaining sessions as 10-15 extra seats are generally available. Dr. Feldman's presentation was highly interactive and he brings experience in police and EMS service. Connecticut's AMSR trainer, Susan Walkama, has assumed additional responsibilities at Wheeler and may have limited availability, so Dr. Feldman is an important adjunct resource.
- AMSR training in October 2008 will target cohort 2A technical high schools. Per Bill T, Judy will contact Pat Ciccone at SDE to set date.
- Susan Moores delivered ASIST training February 18 and 19 targeting school nurses. Youth service bureaus and school personnel were also invited to attend. Andrea had hoped to attend but was unable due to illness. ASIST training March 11 and 12 will target DCF staff. Dates for remainder of year are May 6 and 7, October 14 and 15, and December 9 and 10.
- Review and discussion of appropriateness of ASIST training for some (target) audiences. Andrea shared comments from YSAB. School resource officers and nurses may already have more extensive training and 2 full-day format may be prohibiting participation. ASIST is designed to train lay people (i.e. those that are not first responders). Alternative curricula that sub-committee may want to consider include Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training and Patrick DeChello's Assessing Suicide workshop (3 hours).
- Brainstorming-QPR training may also be appropriate as part of workforce trainings for natural listeners (hairstylists and bartenders) and for trade school, community college, adult education, GED and/or mentoring programs.

SPRC Steering Committee Meeting

- Andrea attended Suicide Prevention Resource Center Steering Committee Meeting at SAMHSA in Rockville, MD February 4 and 5.
- GLSM Act funding has been incorporated into SAMHSA's budget and has grown in order to both increase the number of tribal grantees and expand the reach of SPRCs from youth and young adults to the lifespan. The first cohort of awardees has been approved to re-apply for funding. Connecticut is in the second cohort of grantees. Even in a period of no-cost extension, Connecticut will be eligible to apply for new monies when re-application is released. RFA anticipated fall 2008.
- Andrea met both the Director of SAMHSA and CMHS and participated in a discussion about coordinating and linking federal initiatives/awards at the state level. In addition to CYSPI, DMHAS coordinates the Strategic Prevention Framework (CSAP), Mental Health Transformation and Access to Recovery grants for Connecticut. CYSPI is the only initiative that allows support of direct services. Andrea has met with administrators from both the MHT and Military Support Program to investigate opportunities for collaboration.
- Judy asked if and how co-occurring disorders might be addressed.
- Currently there are no representatives at the national level representing older or elder populations on the Steering Committee. AARP has been invited but has not responded.

Other

- Marianne is constructing a school survey on survey monkey to assess what methods and curricula high schools are currently using to address suicide prevention.
- DCF's Youth Suicide Advisory Board is meeting March 25 to develop recommendations for their Commissioner to direct efforts for youth to age 18. Andrea and Dianne Harnad will attend representing DMHAS.

- Andrea will be on maternity leave from May 19 through November. Responsibility for oversight of project will be shared by Dianne Harnad and Allison Case.

Statewide Awareness Campaign (Enfield Youth Services excused)

- Discussion and revision of Fall 2007 Mini-Grant application
- Wheeler will coordinate application and review process
- Schedule = Re-release in mid-March, questions and letters of intent due April 4, proposals due May 9 and awards to be announced May 26
- Proposal review scheduled for May 20 from 9 AM to 12 NOON

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, April 8 from 9:00 – 10:30 AM (rescheduled, replaces April 15) at United Way of CT

June 17; August 19; October 21; and December 16

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Handouts: December 18 Meeting Minutes; DRAFT Spring 2008 Mini-Grant Application